

South America is a great uncovered field open for missionaries, but the cost of living there is about double that of China, India or Africa. A large part of South America is Roman Catholic, but they are in such utter, abject darkness concerning the truth that many of them accept it as a new revelation, so that that is a promising and somewhat more desirable field to go into than some others because of its advanced civilization.

The choice of fields is however more the business of the proposed Board and the candidates, than of this conference.

Now this question is before us in as intelligent a way as I am able to present it. Let us give it the most *serious* and *prayerful* consideration; upon our decision may be will depend the eternal destiny of hundreds, and more probably thousands of souls, and the nature of our own individual records in the world to come. In my address to the young people I think I demonstrated by figures that we as a church are amply able to contribute at least fifty thousand dollars a year toward educational and missionary enterprises without denying ourselves of any of the necessities of life. I say we are *able* to give that amount, and more; it will of course not be possible to get it, because most of our dear brethren feel no responsibility in the matter, hence are indifferent to it, but it is the bounden duty of such as do feel the responsibility to arouse the church from centre to circumference. To do that it is essential that the work is *recognized* and *authorized* by National Conference.

Respectfully submitted in the fear of the Lord by your unworthy servant.

Chicago, Ill.

We have just spent a few days in the country and while out there we had the privilege of meeting for the first time with the brethren at Lanark, Ill. They have an elegant church house and a band of courteous people who know how to make it pleasant for the stranger who may by chance stop with them. It does one good, after a period of hard mission work to meet with such as we find at Lanark. May God continue to bless them in their work.

On our return we found both young and old glad to see us. It is a great help to us when we realize that our labors are appreciated. It is not only at home that we are rewarded for our labors but also abroad.

We rejoice and thank God for the missionary spirit that is in the Brethren church. Let us keep up the work brethren and God will crown us heirs of glory by and by.

If space would permit we might describe

to you some of the different forms of sin we meet here in the city. We are compassed all around with vice of every description. It permeates every nook and corner. Three men got into a fight in front of the Mission yesterday. Just across the street another poor man got his head cut open with a rock that was thrown by a bad boy. A little farther down another man was shot down in cold blood for the small sum of thirty-five cents. This is only a few of the many crimes that we have in the city. I pray God that we may be instrumental in removing sin from the human family wherever we find it.

Our K. C. will hold a special meeting Wednesday evening to make some definite plans for future work. They have been doing good work, but feel like the rest of us—that they ought to do more. They are not afraid of work.

Just recently we read an article in the EVANGELIST stating: "If we want to make an accomplishment, pledge the children." I would like to add to that article, "pledge the K. C." They are a power for the Lord. May God reward them for their special efforts.

Bro. McFaden will give us a series of Bible talks commencing Sunday evening. We hope as a result to be able to report some accessions to the church in our next letter.

We can not get all of our converts into the Brethren church. We would like to, but this is impossible. All those who desire to make their home elsewhere we bid God speed. Our first object is to get men and women converted to Christ, and next to convert them to our faith.

We have selected the brethren church for our home because we believe her nearest the gospel. We shall ever endeavor to extend her Kingdom and widen her borders. May the Lord guide our steps and keep us in the right road, that straight and narrow way, and our main and only object be the salvation of souls.

I remain yours, a worker for Christ and his kingdom.

HENRY M. COFFMAN.

937 N. California ave.

FIRST FRUIT.

The first fruit of the secretary's "Open letter on Mission Work" is to hand.

A dear sister from Glover's Gap, W. Va., writes thus: "I guess I will not wait for the 'pledges' but send my contribution. I don't like to pledge myself for any certain amount.

The Lord has blessed me much this summer. I sent five dollars to the Chicago Mission this spring, the first time I ever had that much to give at one time in

my life, and now I have five more for which I am very thankful. Divide it among the missions."

This sister further says that sometimes she is sick and not able to work for months. This indicates that she earns her contributions with her own hands, and is not giving of her plenty.

I am aware that many people are averse to giving pledges, but generally because they are afraid that they will have to pay them some day, but this dear sister forestalls such suspicions by sending a very liberal amount in advance. At a penny a month her contribution of ten dollars this year would pay up in advance for eighty-three years. Evidently she is not trying to satisfy her conscience by paying the least allowable amount. At a penny a week she has paid in advance for nineteen years to come. If the dear friends throughout the church will follow this example there will be no need of "pledges" nor any want of money for years to come.

Within the short period of time that I have been secretary another sister that makes her living by the "sweat of her brow" has sent in twenty-five dollars for missions. These tokens of love for God and humanity by these dear, hard-working sisters are very touching to me, and yet it is no more than we all ought to do proportionally. Having done all that we can do we are yet unprofitable servants.

JACOB C. CASSEL.

Our Bible School.

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS.

PSALM 137.

Subject:—"The Loyalty Psalm."

a. A song of Jewish loyalty in the land of captivity.

b. They were more loyal in adversity than in prosperity.

c. This was a Psalm sung in obedience to a request by the Babylonians.

I. Characteristics of their Loyalty.

a. Remembrance of Jerusalem. V. 1.

1. Do we always appreciate God's blessings when we have them? V. 1.

b. Sorrow at the remembrance of what they had lost. V. 1. (Zion-Jerusalem.)

1. Penitence sometimes comes too late. Luke 16:19-31; Heb. 12:16, 17.

c. Joylessness in captivity. V. 2.

d. Courage shown. 1. By casting in the very teeth of their captors a song of defence. Vs. 8 and 9. 2. By a song of loyalty to Zion. Vs. 5 and 6. 3. By their prayer for God to punish the Edomites, the allies of the Babylonians. Obad. 1:11-13. 4. By their prophecy of Baby-